

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

February 5, 2013

Dr. Steven Leath, President
Iowa State University
Office of the President, 1750 Beardshear Hall,
Ames, IA 50011-2021

Dear President Leath,

More than two years ago, Iowa State University asked if I would donate my papers to the school as part of a proposed Harkin Institute of Public Policy. The idea was appealing, for it was at Iowa State where I learned the force of ideas, where I was exposed to a world of diverse opinion, and where I further developed my own philosophy.

But after a time, it became evident that the university would not grant the Institute the very freedoms that I learned to cherish at Iowa State. It intended to restrict some areas of research, constrain some activities, and subject some areas of inquiry at the Harkin Institute to a veto power from elsewhere within the university. The Harkin Institute's Advisory Board now has informed me they think these proposals have damaged the Institute to such an extent that it would never be able to flourish at Iowa State. I have come to agree with the Advisory Board. While I do not control the Institute's operation or its future, the University's original request to receive my papers did envision the Institute as a means to highlight the collection's usefulness to students and researchers, as well as boost the school's profile.

Regrettably, I have decided not to sign over to Iowa State University my papers from my 10 years in the United States House of Representatives and nearly 30 years in the United States Senate. Instead, my family and I will decide where these papers ultimately end up. In making you aware of my decision, I also want to thank Iowa State President Emeritus Greg Geoffroy, who chairs the Advisory Board, the board members, as well as acting Harkin Institute Director David Peterson. I regret that this did not work out as we had all hoped at the beginning.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator